

What is claimed is;

1. An image capturing system comprising:

an image capturing element that captures an image of  
5 a subject and outputs image information;

a storage circuit in which image information is stored;

a switch through which a start instruction to start  
internal access to said storage circuit in response to an  
operation performed by a user is issued;

10 an interface that enables communication with an  
external apparatus; and

a control circuit that interrupts external access and  
executes internal access to said storage circuit when said  
start instruction is received during the external access in  
15 which the external apparatus accesses said storage circuit  
via said interface.

2. An image capturing system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

20 said start instruction is an instruction for starting  
a write of image information output by said image capturing  
element; and

the image information from said image capturing element  
is written into said storage circuit through internal access.

25

3. An image capturing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display storage circuit employed to output image information stored in said storage circuit to a display device,

5 wherein:

said start instruction is an instruction for updating image information stored in said display storage circuit; and

image information stored in said storage circuit is read out to said display storage circuit through internal  
10 access.

4. An image capturing system according to claim 1, wherein:

image information received from the external apparatus  
15 via said interface is written into said storage circuit through external access.

5. An image capturing system according to claim 1, wherein:

20 image information recorded in said storage circuit is read out to the external apparatus via said interface through external access.

6. An image capturing system according to claim 1,  
25 wherein:

said control circuit disallows external access until internal access following an interruption of external access is completed.

- 5 7. An image capturing system according to claim 1,  
wherein:

said control circuit executes internal access and external access alternately until internal access following an interruption of external access is completed.

10

8. An image capturing system according to claim 4,  
wherein:

said control circuit outputs internal access end information to the external apparatus via said interface,  
15 based upon a fact that internal access following an interruption of external access is completed .

9. An image capturing system according to claim 4,  
wherein:

20 said control circuit interrupts external access, and outputs access restart time information indicating when communication with the external apparatus is allowed to resume, to the external apparatus via said interface.

- 25 10. An image capturing system according to claim 5,

wherein:

said control circuit restarts external access based upon a fact that internal access following an interruption of external access is completed.

5

11. An image capturing system according to claim 5, wherein:

said control circuit interrupts external access, and outputs access restart time information indicating when communication with the external apparatus is allowed to resume, to the external apparatus via said interface.

10

12. An image capturing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

15

a buffer in which a portion of image information stored in said storage circuit is temporarily stored before the image information stored in said storage circuit is read out to the external apparatus via said interface, wherein

20

said control circuit outputs the portion of the image information stored in said buffer to the external apparatus via said interface when an image information transfer request is issued by the external apparatus before internal access following an interruption of external access is completed.

25

13. A computer readable recording medium having recorded

therein a control processing program for an image capturing system, said program comprising:

an image capturing instruction for capturing an image of a subject and outputting image information;

5 a storage instruction for storing image information in a storage circuit;

a start instruction for starting internal access to the storage circuit in response to an operation performed by a user;

10 a communication instruction for communicating with an external apparatus; and

an execution instruction for interrupting external access and executing internal access to the storage circuit when said start instruction is received during external  
15 access in which the external apparatus accesses the storage circuit.